



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
1121 Georgia Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081

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CONNECT WITH US

Bethlehem Lutheran

1121 Georgia Avenue
Sheboygan, WI 53081

www.ourbethlehem.com

Church: (920) 452-4331
infochurch@ourbethlehem.com

School: (920) 452-5071
infoschool@ourbethlehem.com



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ourbethlehem](http://www.facebook.com/ourbethlehem)



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ourbethlehem](https://twitter.com/ourbethlehem)

Rev. J. Patrick Niles
Administrative Pastor

Patrick Vanic
Principal

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Worship Times

Saturday - 5:30pm

Sunday - 8:00am & 10:30am

Wednesday - 6:00pm

Bible Studies

Saturday evening ~ 4:15 to 5:15pm

Sunday morning ~ 9:15 to 10:15am

Apr 2023

MEMBERSHIP



Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Sheboygan Lutheran
High School
Association



Sheboygan Area
Lutheran Schools
Association

April 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

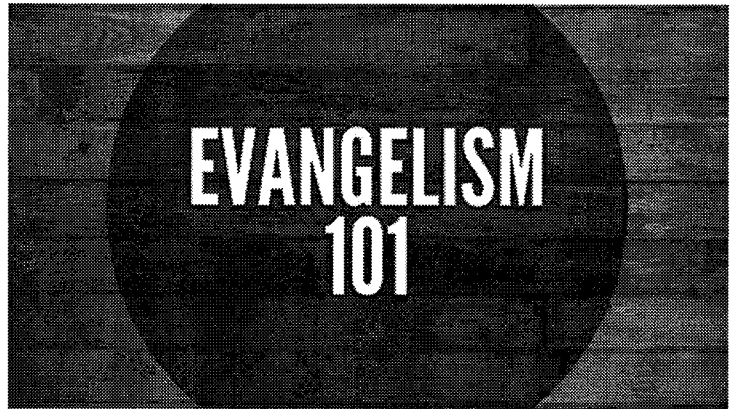
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<p>1</p> <p>Easter Egg Hunt 9:00am (gym)</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>2</p> <p>Palm Sunday Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Quilters 9:00am</p> <p>LWML meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Partners in Reading 1:00pm</p> <p>NO Wednesday evening worship</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Maundy Thursday Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>NO School Church & School offices closed</p> <p>Good Friday Worship w/HC 1:00pm</p> <p>Good Friday Worship Tenebrae w/HC 7:00pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>NO Bible class</p> <p>Easter Vigil Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Easter Sunday Worship w/HC 6:00am, 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Easter Breakfast (after sunrise service until 10:00am)</p> <p>NO Bible class</p>	<p>10</p> <p>NO School</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Partners in Reading 1:00pm</p> <p>NO Wednesday evening worship</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>LHS Auction / Dinner Preview Night 6:00-8:00pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p> <p>LHS Auction / Dinner 4:30pm</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible class (New Member class begins) & Sunday School 9:15am</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Youth Board meeting 4:30pm</p> <p>PTL meeting 6:00pm</p> <p>Board of Christian Day School meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Quilters 9:00am</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Partners in Reading 1:00pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00p</p> <p>Board of P.R. meeting 6:30pm</p> <p>Parish Planning Council meeting 7:00pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>May Visitor Deadline (noon)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>FUN FAIR (sponsored by PTL) 5:00-7:00pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm (Grades 5-8 sing)</p> <p>Junior Youth Lock-In 5:00-10:00pm</p>
<p>23/30</p> <p>Worship w/HC 8:00am & 10:30am</p> <p>Bible class & Sunday School 9:15am</p> <p>4/30: LHS Musical "The Little Mermaid" 2:00pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Board of Parish Fellowship meeting 6:30pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Partners in Reading 1:00pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 6:00pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>LHS Musical "The Little Mermaid" 7:00pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Bible class 4:15pm</p> <p>Worship w/HC 5:30pm</p> <p>Bethlehem's TRIVIA NIGHT 5:45pm</p> <p>LHS Musical "The Little Mermaid" 7:00pm</p>

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR NILES

The Challenge of Evangelism

“.[B]ut in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect....”
~ 1 Peter 3:15 ~

On vicarage (an internship for a student during their third year of seminary education), I had to complete an evangelism project. I worked to bring in a pastor in the district to do evangelism training for the congregation. During part of that day of training, the members and I went out to make cold calls on houses in the town. We had a script to follow. The script was very similar to the Kennedy evangelism method. After introducing ourselves, the first question we were supposed to ask the person, in whose doorway we were intruding, was “If you died today, do you know where you would end up?” More than a couple times, the door was deservedly slammed in our face. I remember being dejected about this. If this was evangelism, I really wanted no part in doing it.



I have a suspicion that when people think about evangelism, this is similar to the situation they imagine. People telling you to get off their property. Doors being slammed in your face. Feelings of rejection and failure cloud our minds with fear. That day happened 17 years ago, and it still plagues my thoughts on occasion.

A few years later, I was on a servant event with thirty youth adults in the mountains of Colorado. We were clearing land and creating paths at camp for horses, bikers, and hikers. It was hard work, and the youth and adults handled it marvelously. One night after our campfire devotion, I noticed a young man hanging back after everyone had gone off to the cabins. He was just sitting staring at the fire. I went over and sat down next to him. All of a sudden he put his head on my shoulder and began to sob. He begins unloading all of the things that were going on in his life. He revealed that he was unsure that God cared about him anymore. I began to recite the words to “Jesus Loves Me” to him with special emphasis on “the Bible tells me so”. He stopped crying, and started laughing. He said, “Pastor, that was so corny!” I replied with, “Yeah, I am. But that doesn’t make it any less true.” He responded with a smile and “I know”.

I am not going to pretend to have all of the answers when it comes to evangelism. But I do know that evangelism happens best when it is done vocationally. In the organic situations that arise in your life, God gives you opportunities to give a reason for the hope that you have and the hope that others can have too! We become stewards of these opportunities for vocational evangelism at work, at school, at family gatherings, in the park, or in line at the grocery store. We dare not overcomplicate it. We listen. We answer. We proclaim Jesus. It can be corny. It can be simple. It can be unrefined. It is still effective because it is God who does the work through you. You are simply the steward of the opportunity. I pray that God gives you ample opportunities to be stewards of the evangelism opportunities that He provides!

In Christ,

Pastor Niles

JUNIOR YOUTH LOCK-IN

APRIL
22

5-10
PM

JUNIOR YOUTH

LOCK-IN FOR 5TH-8TH GRADE

SIGN-IN

MEET IN THE
CENTURY ROOM

5:00
PM

5:30
PM

WORSHIP

5TH-8TH GRADE SINGS

DINNER

PIZZA, SNACKS, POP,
AND DESSERT

6:30
PM

7-10
PM

GAMES

BOARD GAMES, VIDEO GAMES,
SCAVENGER HUNT AND MORE!

FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER, SCAN HERE!

Please bring \$5
with you to help
with the costs.



April News

COME TO LWML FOR A TOPIC SHOWING WHERE SCIENCE AND FAITH MEET

The short answer to where science and faith meet is "at the foot of the cross". On Tuesday, April 4th at 7:00pm in the Century Room, LWML will "deep dive" into the topic, "*The Mayo Clinic looks at the Crucifixion of Jesus*". Just what did it cost Jesus, physically, to pay for the sins of all mankind for all time?

Ladies: If you're reading this item, you're invited to attend as a guest. Although this is our regular April meeting, there'll be no pressure on you to become a member. Just get to know us a bit.

REMEMBER THE TV SHOW "CHEERS"?

That show's famous theme song had the phrase, "*Where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came!*" Well, church is very much like that. We're always glad you came (and you can work on the "knowing your name" part).

Maybe you've gotten into the habit of viewing our worship service online. Wouldn't Lent be a good time to come back to in-person worship? Joining your church family in praying, singing, hearing God's Word read and preached? Holy Week is approaching, so in the words of an old gospel hymn:

"Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling O Sinner, Come Home!"

NEW BIBLE CLASS TOPICS BEGIN IN APRIL

Pastor Niles will begin one of his excellent Bible class topics in April. Watch the bulletin for more details and make a plan to attend either Saturday evenings from 4:15-5:15pm or Sunday mornings from 9:15-10:15am.

Will we see you in the Century Room at one of those times?

OF FIRST IMPORTANCE: A HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONAL

Reflect with us this Holy Week, starting Palm Sunday on April 2nd, with daily online devotions and Bible readings.

This 8-day study will dive into themes of God's desire to dwell with us.

Email martha.becker.96@gmail.com to sign up today.

"WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE", (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE NEW MEMBER CLASS), WILL BE STARTING SHORTLY

What do Lutherans believe? This class informs you of Bethlehem's teachings and tells a bit of our history. This class is for those who have transferred in, those wishing to become members, and current members who would like a refresher. This class is for you! Join us - you are sure to learn something new from Pastor Niles.

Ask questions or just come and listen.

If you are a new member transferring from another congregation, would like to become a member of Bethlehem, or know someone who would like to become a member, please contact the church office, as we would like to touch base with you and answer any questions you may have prior to the first class.

Join us on Sunday, April 16th from 9:15-10:15am in the Century Room.

THE 2023 BETHLEHEM STAR GALA PRESENTS: "AN EVENING OF DENIM AND DIAMONDS"

Save the date: Saturday, September 23rd, 2023!

ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST— APRIL 9TH

The Easter breakfast will be served immediately following the Easter sunrise service and will continue until 10:00am.

As in previous years, the cost of the breakfast will be a free-will donation.

The menu will include scrambled eggs (with available toppings), cheesy hashbrowns, sausage links, fruit, baked goods, milk, juice, and coffee.

Please contact Megan Boerger at 920-889-0056 or m-boerger@hotmail.com with any questions.

We encourage you to join us on Easter morning for this fellowship gathering.

VOTERS MEETING

The next Voters meeting will be on Wednesday, May 3rd at 7:00pm. Please plan to attend.

More April News

NEAT REPEATS

- 3/28-4/1: all clothing is \$1.00
4/4-4/8: Easter decorations & all baskets 50% off
4/11: 30% off everything in the store
4/12-4/15: toys, games & puzzles 50% off
4/18-4/22: candles & candle holders 50% off
4/25-4/29: purses, bags & luggage 50% off

YOUTH GROUP DATE FOR APRIL

See the flyer in this edition of the Visitor. QR code and link are provided for registering!
There is a junior youth **Lock-In** on Saturday, April 22nd from 5:00-10:00pm. Grades 5-8 will sing in church that evening (This is a change from the original choir schedule. They will NOT sing on that Sunday morning). The 5th-8th graders are then invited to stick around after church for the lock-in. This is a great opportunity for the 5th graders to check out junior youth group!
We ask that you bring \$5 with you that evening to help with the costs of the event.
Parents: you must sign your child in that evening!

PART-TIME CUSTODIAL POSITION OPENING

Sheboygan Lutheran High School is accepting applications for a female custodial position. This year-round position is for evenings, 5 days a week, 4 hours a day, cleaning the school building and girls' facilities, to maintain a well-kept and sanitary facility. Applications for employment can be downloaded from the www.lutheranhigh.com website or obtained in the LHS school office (Monday-Thursday, 8:00am-2:00pm).

AUCTION DINNER AT LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Reservations are open for the annual Crusade for Bids Auction Dinner, April 15th, in the LHS gymnasium. Early-bird prices are good through April 7th. Register online at www.lutheranhigh.com under the Events tab / Auction Dinner. We will have an in-person event this year and will offer simultaneous online bidding on Saturday night from 4:30-8:00pm for those unable to attend the event.
Friday, April 14th, Auction Preview Night (6:00-8:00pm), features booklet pickup, Friday-only opportunities, and light entertainment. All are welcome to stop in on Friday night for free and see all we have to offer, even if you're not registering for dinner.
Saturday, April 15th, Auction (4:30pm) highlights include a Meat Raffle, Orlando/Weston summer vacation week, Badger football tickets, a Havaton male puppy (non-shedding hypoallergenic lapdog), and more! View a more complete list of items on our website, www.lutheranhigh.com/auction

SPRING CLEANING SHREDDING EVENT

Cesar and Kirsten Lemus of Thrivent's Sheboygan County Team are hosting a FREE shredding collection event at LHS on Friday, April 21st, 10:00am-1:00pm. Clean out those file cabinets and drawers, and drop off your documents at Lutheran High School to be securely shredded by The File Depot.

GRIEF SHARE

Is a Christian based, weekly seminar and support group, designed to rebuild your life after the loss of a loved one. There is a video presentation each week with grief experts and people who have participated in GriefShare, discussion and a workbook for personal study and reflection.
GriefShare lasts 13 weeks from April 12th—June 29th from 10:00-11:30am at St. Mark Lutheran Church, located at 1019 North 7th St., Sheboygan. Enter the church off the parking lot east of the church, as the sessions will be held in the adult education room. The cost is \$20 for the workbook, which will be returned when you complete the classes. Call Carolyn at 920-458-4343, Ext.104 for questions or to register.

MAY VISITOR DEADLINE

If you would like to submit information for the May Visitor, please have your information to the church office no later than noon on Thursday, April 20th, 2023. Please feel free to email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com or drop it off in the church office with a note attached that it is for the Visitor.

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Timothy Ertel - February 27, 2023
Marlene Loesing - March 6, 2023

**BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF**

December 31, 2022

ASSETS	Dec	Nov	
Cash	\$ 228,605	\$ 248,683	
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 840,123	\$ 840,123	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,578,821	\$ 6,522,666	Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 227,031	\$ 61,277	
SYNOD	\$ 0	\$ 4166	
Lutheran High School	\$ 0	\$ 5,000	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,575,929	\$ 1,584,142	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,950,751	\$ 1,802,260	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 90,183	\$ 73,522	
Tuition	\$ 17,170	\$ 20,867	
School Choice Program	\$ 0	\$ 143,832	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 132,448	\$ 293,219	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$. 219,500	\$ 154,814	
Total Monthly NET INCOME	\$ (87,052)	\$ 138,404	
<u>TOTAL REVENUE 2022</u>	\$ 1,992,262	\$ 1,859,814	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2022</u>	\$ 1,973,954	\$ 1,754,453	
<u>NET INCOME 2022</u>	\$ 18,307	\$ 105,360	

Our cash position at the end of December stands at \$228,605, and our General Accounts Payable increased to \$227,031. Accounting for a number of unusual year end transactions. December Adult envelopes came in over our estimated monthly projections at \$90,183. Comparing our net income against 2021 (\$27,909) we are down by \$9,602 to \$18,307. We still are positive for the year! That's a good thing! If you haven't reviewed the gifts your Father has given to you recently, please pray over them and respond with your offerings of time, talent and treasures.

Thank God for all you do!

**BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL INFORMATION AS OF**

January 31, 2023

ASSETS	Jan	Dec. 22	
Cash	\$ 225,997	\$ 228,605	
Endowment Funds – Principal Only	\$ 840,123	\$ 840,123	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,523,911	\$ 6,578,821	Includes buildings & land
 <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
General Accounts Payable	\$ 125,630	\$ 227,031	
SYNOD	\$ 834	\$ 0	
Lutheran High School	\$ 2,500	\$ 0	Monthly Pmt \$2,500
 <u>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</u>			
Mortgage Thrivent	\$ 1,567,697	\$ 1,575,929	Monthly Pmt \$11,778
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,842,244	\$ 1,950,751	
 <u>REVENUE</u> (selected accounts)			
Adult Envelopes	\$ 87,615	\$ 90,183	
Tuition	\$ 23,891	\$ 17,170	
School Choice Program	\$ 0	\$ 0	
Total Monthly Income	\$ 122,605	\$ 132,448	
Total Monthly Expenses	\$. 126,918	\$ 219,500	
Total Monthly NET INCOME	\$ (4,313)	\$ (87,052)	
<u>TOTAL REVENUE 2023</u>	\$ 122,605	\$ 1,992,262	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES 2023</u>	\$ 126,918	\$ 1,973,954	
<u>NET INCOME 2023</u>	\$ (4,313)	\$ 18,307	

Our cash position at the end of January is in good shape at \$225,997. General Accounts Payable are down to \$125,630. Comparing our net income against Jan. 2022 (\$4,969) we are in better shape by a little over \$600. Thanks for continuing to support Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School. We look forward to helping to spread and grow in His word in 2023.

Thank God for all you do to support our church! Please check out the new calendar page on our website. Just hit Calendar in the menu bar.

BETHLEHEM YOUTH
INVITE YOU TO

TRIVIA NIGHT

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

in the Bethlehem gymnasium

Think you know your sports?
Like to eat pizza and snacks?
Trivia night is for you!

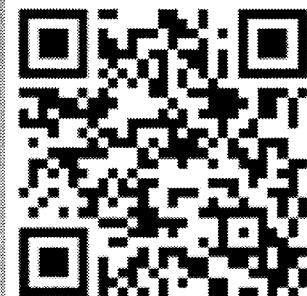
DOORS OPEN 5:45

DINNER 6:00

TRIVIA 7:00

Admission is \$20

For more information and to
register, scan here
(or visit the Bethlehem website and
follow the link provided)



**NEVER BEEN TO
TRIVIA?
YOU RECEIVE \$5
OFF ADMISSION!**

NEW

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

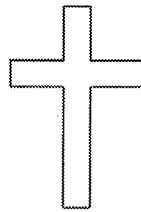
If you have changed your name, address, phone number or email address, please notify the church office with your information. You can call the church office at 920-452-4331 or email amy.weir@ourbethlehem.com with your new/current information. Thank you for your help.

ROOM RESERVATION REMINDER

Just a reminder to make sure that you let the church office know if and when you need to reserve a room so we can be sure that there are no conflicts. Thank you!

VISIT US ONLINE

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School is on Facebook. Please also visit us at our website, www.ourbethlehem.com. Check out the main page where you will find information about upcoming events and activities. Scroll down to see a calendar of important items. Find helpful information by clicking on the various tabs under *Church* and *School*.



VISITOR SPONSORSHIP

To help us defray expenses for producing and mailing our monthly newsletter, we have established a sponsorship program which includes a congregational contributor for a cost of \$50 per year; and a commercial contributor for the cost of \$120 per year. If interested, please drop off your payment or call the church office at 920-452-4331.

Congregational Sponsors

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